

1750, 1751, 1753, the Reverend Thomas Bacon, through the liberality of many of the colonists, aided by the munificence of Lord and Lady Baltimore, succeeded in establishing a "Charity Working School." The building now used as the County alms house was erected through his efforts. The school went into successful operation, and continued to exist up to the time of our revolutionary war. The following is the heading of the subscription paper circulated by Mr. Bacon:

"Whereas, Profaneness and debauchery, idleness and immorality, are greatly owing to a gross ignorance of the Christian religion, and to sloth and idleness, especially among the poorer sort in this province; and, *Whereas*, many poor people are very desirous of having their children taught, * * * — we, whose names are underwritten, do hereby promise and agree to pay yearly, * * * for setting up a "Charity Working School" in the parish of St. Peter, in Talbot County, for maintaining and teaching poor children to read write and account, and in instructing them in the knowledge and practice of the Christian religion, as taught in the Church of England," etc. On the the 29th September, 1750, he had obtained annual subscriptions amounting to \$284, and donations of \$164 more from the citizens of the County. In a letter from Cecil Calvert, secretary, to Lord Baltimore, addressed to Parson Bacon, he says, "As a peculiar mark of his (Lord Baltimore's) favor and protection * * he has given instruction to Mr. Edward Lloyd, his agent and receiver general to pay * * * the sum of one hundred guineas sterling (\$466,) as a free gift * * * and the sum of twenty pounds (\$86.60,) a year, together with five pounds (\$21.66) a year from Lady Baltimore, * * * to be paid by half yearly payments," etc. The same letter indicates that the boys of this Institution were graciously allowed to be called "nominal Baltimore boys." * Mr. Calvert, in a post script subscribes five pounds sterling a year to the school from his own purse. During our revolutionary troubles, this school languished and finally became extinct. The property of this school, by the concurrence of our people, and under sanction of an act of Assembly, was transferred to the authorities of Talbot County, as a home for the County poor.

The General Assembly of this State, by the act of 1798, appropriated to an Academy to be located in this County, the sum of eight hundred dollars, to be paid annually. This was followed by the act of 1799, establishing the Academy at Easton, and incorporating the Board of Trustees. Into this school, provision was made to receive one pupil free of

* American Quarterly Church Review, October 1865, Art. Rev. Thomas Bacon